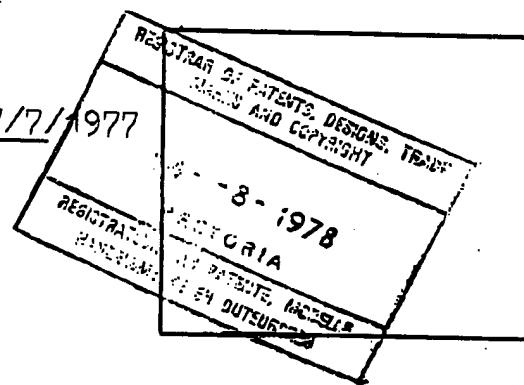


REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE PATENTS ACT, 1952, AS AMENDED

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Filing date and Application No. 77/4110 filed 7/7/1977



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Title of Invention: "IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO
 TABLE MATS"

I/We do hereby declare this invention, the manner in which and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:

This invention relates to table mats.

According to the invention a table mat comprises an inner core of foam material; and an outer cover of woven, knitted or like material.

The inner core may comprise a sheet of natural or synthetic foam rubber or any other suitable natural or synthetic foam material.

The inner core may be flexible and/or resilient.

The outer cover may comprise woven material made from natural and/or synthetic fibre, such as cotton, nylon, polyester or any other suitable fibre.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the inner core comprises a sheet of foam rubber which is totally enclosed in a sheath of woven stretchable nylon material.

The inner core may be of any suitable thickness to protect a table or other surface from heat from a hot plate, dish or the like placed on top of the table mat.

A table mat according to the invention may be of any suitable shape and/or size. Thus a table mat intended for use as an individual place mat may be of round, rectangular or oval

shape. A table mat intended for use as a centre mat on a table may be of an elongated configuration. Such an elongated centre mat may be provided with square, round or oval ends.

A table mat according to the invention may be provided with any suitable ornamentation, such as ornamental edge stitching or lace trimming round at least part of the perimeter of the mat.

The outer cover of a table mat according to the invention may be of the same material, texture and colour on both sides of the mat. Where ornamentation is provided, such ornamentation may be substantially the same on both sides of the mat.

Alternatively the outer cover may be of different materials and/or textures and/or colours on opposite sides of the mat. Also different ornamentation may be provided on opposite sides of the mat.

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a table mat according to the invention; and

Fig. 2 is a section on line II-II in Fig. 1.

Referring to the accompanying drawings a table mat 10 is shown to include a substantially rectangular core 11 of foam rubber which is totally enclosed in a sheath 12 of woven stretchable nylon material.

The sheath 12 is constituted by an upper cover 12(a) and a lower cover 12(b), both of stretchable nylon fabric. Covers 12(a) and 12(b) are held together by means of stitching 13 extending along the edges of the mat 10.

The covers 12(a) and 12(b) are also stitched together by means of stitching 14 which is inwardly spaced from the edges of the mat 10. It will be seen that stitching 14 extends through the core 11 serving thereby to locate the core against transverse movement within the sheath 12.

Lace trimmings 15 are attached along the perimeter of the mat 10 by means of stitching 13 but it will be appreciated that the trimming 15 may also be so attached by means of independent stitching.

It is preferred to have the covers 12(a) and 12(b) of different colours or different shades of a colour. Although a rectangular mat is shown in the drawings, the mat may be of any desired shape such as oval, triangular, circular, etc.

The thickness of core 11 is such that it is suitable to protect a table surface from heat from a hot plate, dish or the like. It has been found that for table place mats a core thickness of about 5 mm. is adequate.

It will be appreciated that many variations in detail are possible without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

any number and wherein the same is to be performed, if we declare that what I/we claim is:

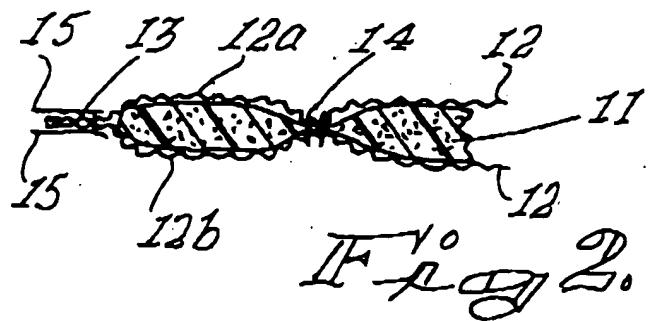
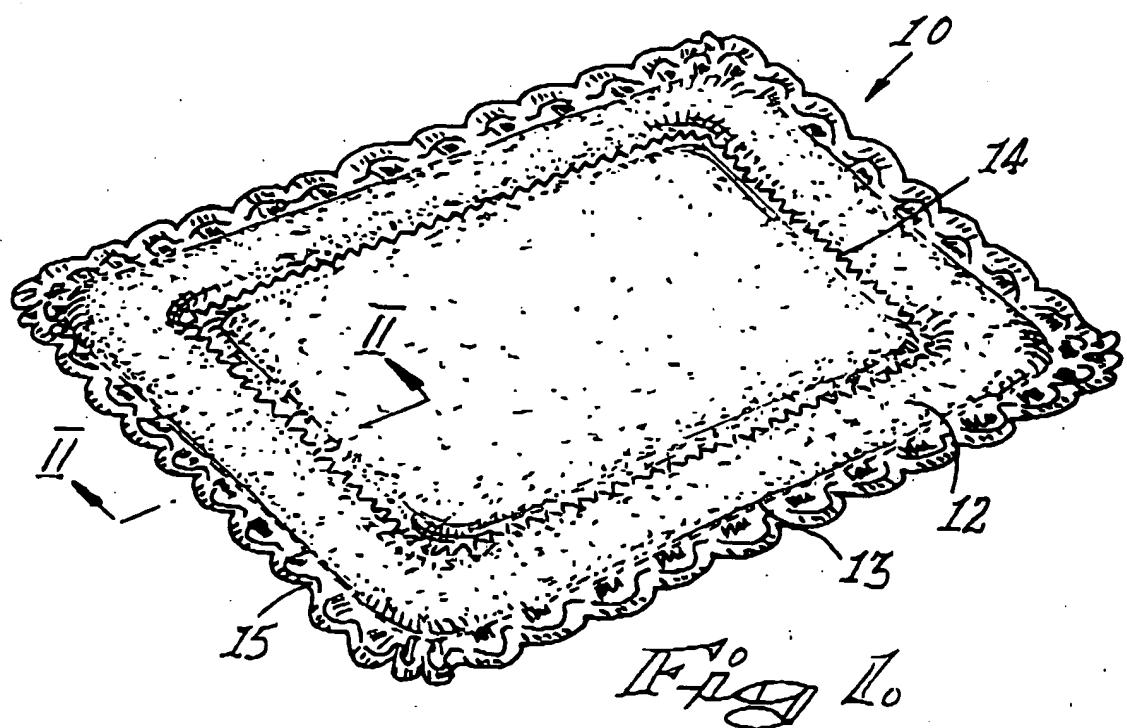
1. A table mat comprising an inner core of foam material and an outer cover of woven, knitted or like material.
2. A mat according to claim 1 wherein the core comprises a sheet of natural or synthetic foam material.
3. A mat according to claim 2 wherein the core comprises a sheet of natural or synthetic rubber foam.
4. A mat according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the core is flexible.
5. A mat according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the core is resilient.
6. A mat according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the outer cover comprises a woven material made from natural and/or synthetic fibre.
7. A mat according to claim 6 wherein the outer cover comprises a sheath of woven stretchable nylon material totally enclosing the core.

8. A table mat substantially as herein described
with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 4th day of August, 1975


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